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November- December 2018

Halloween Patrols

Dates are Friday October 26, Saturday October 27 & Wednesday October 31. The patrols are a unique opportunity to experience Ross Bay Cemetery at night and at the same time help to deter vandalism. We do our patrols in two shifts, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 12 midnight.

If you are able to help with this event please phone Gudrun Leys at 250-590-5850 or e-mail gMLEYS@gmail.com and advise which date & shifts you would like.

Sunday, October 28th Ghost Walk in Ross Bay Cemetery

John Adams is organizing the story tellers and the tour route. This is his proposal: The plan is to have 10 speakers in costume, each at a grave. There will be one route only. Starting time will be 2:00 p.m. As groups of 15 gather they will be taken by a pilot to one of the locations, but won't actually begin until 2:00 p.m. It will be a shotgun start, with everyone starting at the same time at all 10 locations. The pilots will walk the group to the next speaker, as they have done in the past. Gerry Buydens will walk the pilots around the route at 1:30 p.m.

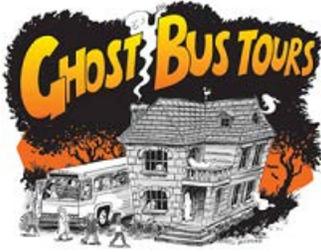
We'll start at Stannard Avenue and finish at the caretaker's shed. Gerry Buydens will organize the pilots and refreshment people. We need volunteers to act as pilots to direct patrons on the tour. If you can help, please contact gbuydens@shaw.ca or 383-4873. Meet before 1:30 p.m. in Fairfield Plaza.

Sale of Shirts, Caps and Pins

The Society has a limited number of t-shirts and sweatshirts, limited sizes and colors which we want to clear out. Cost is \$5 for a sweatshirt and \$5 for a t-shirt. There also are baseball-type caps at \$5 each. Pins - \$5 each. If interested, let Gudrun Leys know at

gmleys@gmail.com or 250 590-5850 and she will send you a copy of our inventory. These will be on display at the ghost walk tour on October 28.

Join us for our 25th year of Ghost Bus Tours



In 1994 John Adams and Glenn Perlstrom started the Ghost Bus Tours as an experiment to raise money for the OCS and to have some fun telling ghost stories around Halloween. Who imagined the tours would become so popular and that they would still be going strong in 2018? They have become the biggest single fund raiser for the OCS each year. Routes are different each year.

John Adams has devised a route this year that focuses on Oak Bay and Gordon Head, with two stops along the way for on-site Ghost hunting and stories. Tickets do sell out but some are still available. Support the OCS by buying yours today.

GHOST BUS TOURS 2018

Oct. 20 at 7:00 pm – SOLD OUT
Oct. 26 at 7:00 pm – tickets available
Oct. 27 at 6:30 pm – tickets available

Oct. 27 at 9:00 pm – SOLD OUT
Oct. 28 at 7:00 pm – tickets available

Tickets are \$38 each plus GST. Available only online at www.discoverthepast.com. From the homepage click “buy tickets” in the upper right hand section and the Ghost Bus Tours logo will appear. Click on it and choose the date you want.

Favourite Ghost Stories



Newly expanded and revised, *Favourite Ghost Stories* from the Old Cemeteries Society (OCS) offers the chills, thrills and mystery of our annual Sunday afternoon Ghost Walk and evening Ghost Bust-Tour deliver every Halloween. These tales recount ghostly happening from throughout the Victoria area, recognized as one of the most haunted locales in all of Canada.

Favourite Ghost Stories will be available at the annual Ghost Bus-Tours and at the OCS Ross Bay Cemetery Ghost Tour on 28 October.

Stories in Stone is the new publishing imprint of the Old Cemeteries Society. These publications promote interest in heritage cemeteries and our social history. The imprint was launched earlier this year with the publication of the *Guide to Victoria's Historic Jewish Cemetery*. The second in the new Stories in Stone series, *Favourite Ghost Stories* replaces previous OCS versions. The next publication, scheduled for early 2019, will be an update of the existing booklet on the Old Quadra Street Burying Ground.

Cleaning

Sharon Welsh

We are packing up our garden hoses, scrapers, brooms and sunscreen for the winter after a short cleaning season this year. This year we worked in areas with water available, and once the gravesites had the moss and lichen removed we washed the headstones.

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Thank you very much to everyone who joined us this year. You may not realize it, but, your work really made a difference. Here's photographic evidence.



Restoration

Wilf Bruch

We've erected a new and better grave marker for Isabella Ross! The old one was showing some damage and wear so we decided to replace it with a sand blasted wooden marker. We hope that this one will weather much better than the last one. Next time you're in the cemetery, stop by and say "Hi" to Isabella.



Something New in the Old Cemetery

Wilf Bruch

Although Ross Bay Cemetery was opened in 1873 and expanded twice since then, we're still seeing new grave markers being installed. Here are two interesting markers installed this year; Dennis Edward Morgan (P106WI) and Daniel Patrick Paris Long (O61WR) (front and rear view)



Another Loss At Sea

Wilf Bruch

November 10, 2018 will mark the hundredth anniversary of a tragic loss of thirteen men off the west coast of Vancouver Island.

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That Sunday morning started off like most west coast winter days. There was a light wind blowing and the seas were not particularly rough. The Renfrew, a 62-foot purse seiner, sat moored at the docks of the Lummi Bay Packing co. on Nitinat Lake awaiting her captains' orders to cast off. Captain Nels Ford, an experienced seaman, had walked to the nearby cliffs overlooking the mouth of the Nitinat River to check the sea conditions for himself in preparation to sail to Victoria. He decided that the weather was safe and cast off at about 4 p.m. On board were 27 souls, crew and passengers, bound for Victoria after a long summer of fishing.

The most dangerous part of the voyage would be navigating the Nitinat sand bar just past the mouth of the Nitinat river. On approaching the bar, Captain Ford noticed a few breakers and slowed the Renfrew to allow them to break before he reached the bar. However, as the ship reached the bar a large wave hit her, breaking a window, jamming her steering wheel and pushing her off course. It was at this moment that a huge "lone comber" or rogue wave hit the Renfrew, passing over her and partially flooding the engine room, stalling the engine. The Renfrew hit the sand bar broadside and was immediately hit by a second large wave which capsized her. All aboard were cast into the sea or trapped below decks.

The wreck was only a few hundred yards from the rocky shore when it capsized, but with a strong undertow and nowhere to land the survivors were dashed against the rocks time and time again. Those who managed to get ashore safely bore many cut and gashes. Luckily, the incident had a witness in Captain Fraser who had been standing on the cliffs overlooking the scene and was quick to summon help.

On the evening of November 18 the fishing tender Bonilla arrived in Victoria with twelve survivors and eleven bodies. Two of the passengers were never found. An inquest was held on November 20th using the body of Mr. E Barrett as representation of all the deceased. A marine court of inquiry was also held and assessed no blame. The sinking was classed as a peril of the sea. Today the victims are all but forgotten. Six of the dead are buried at Ross Bay Cemetery. None have markers: O Trondsen (N31WH), Bjorseth Einor (N32WH), J Widhal (N33WH), L Sanders (Q17EV), P Hansen (N34EG), E Barrett (03W39).



A Long Forgotten Grave Wilf Bruch

This memorial appeared in the Daily Colonist of November 19, 1919.....

In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Walter Butcher, who died Oct 19, 1918.

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Twelve months have gone but still we miss him,
Never will his memory fade.
Loving thoughts will ever linger
Round the grave where he is laid.
From his family.



Plot Q 018 E V
Ross Bay Cemetery

I felt compelled to visit his grave and remember his untimely accidental death at the age on 39. It was obvious that the grave has not been visited for a long time.

HALLOWEEN TRIVIA

Sharon Welsh

1. What vegetable was traditionally carved before the pumpkin?
 - a. Beetroot
 - b. Melon
 - c. Turnip
 - d. Swede

2. What is the day after Halloween called?
 - a. All Sinners' Day
 - b. All Saint's Day
 - c. After Hallow's Day
 - d. Hallowmass

3. What does the Halloween colour orange represent?
 - a. The harvest
 - b. The twilight
 - c. The burning of spirits
 - d. The voice of spirits

4. Apart from eating, how else are apples used on Halloween?
 - a. Bobbing for apples game
 - b. Good luck charms to hang on doors
 - c. Carve for miniature Jack O'Lanterns
 - d. Protective potions using apples

5. Why do you wear masks on Halloween?
 - a. To protect our faces in case the dead attacks us
 - b. To keep the dead from recognizing the living
 - c. To protect the dead from seeing us happy

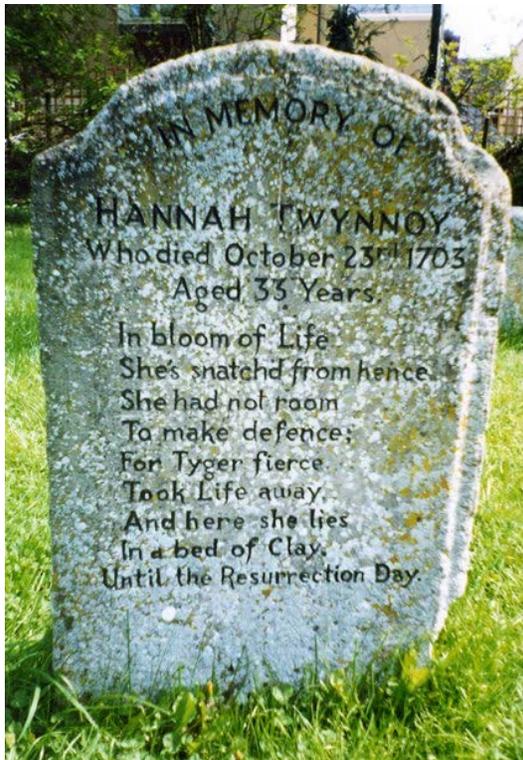
- d. To stop the dead from touching our faces
6. How long does it take a pumpkin to grow?
a. 30-60 days
b. 40-80 days
c. 60-90 days
d. 90-120 days
7. Halloween is the third largest US party day of the year. Which is the second?
a. Christmas Day
b. Super Bowl Sunday
c. Thanksgiving
d. New Year's Eve
8. Barnbrack is a traditional Halloween food. What is it?
a. A fruit cake
b. A meat dish
c. A pumpkin punch
d. A special bread
9. Jerry Ayers is the world's fastest pumpkin carver. How fast was he?
a. 22 seconds
b. 37 seconds
c. 45 seconds
d. 53 seconds
10. In England, what are white cats believed to be?
a. Bad luck
b. Good luck
c. Devil's luck
d. Spirit protection
11. What was the trick originally in 'trick or treat'?
a. Knock on the door and then run away
b. Throw water at the person opening the door
c. Sing a song to the person giving you the candy
d. Recite a good luck protection spell
12. What does the colour black signify in Halloween?
a. Death
b. Darkness
c. Uncertainty
d. The Devil
13. The pumpkin is related to the potato ...
True? OR False?
14. Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday after what?
a. Easter
b. New Year's
c. Christmas
d. Thanksgiving
15. Why do we ring a bell on Halloween?
a. To welcome the spirits
b. To scare away the spirits

- c. To dance with the spirits
 - d. To comfort the Spirits
16. Who was Jack O'Lantern?
- a. A banished demon
 - b. A mischievous elf
 - c. A guardian angel
 - d. A shifty villain

ANSWERS:

1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-A, 5-B, 6-D, 7-B, 8-A, 9-B, 10-A, 11-C, 12-A, 13-False, 14-C, 15-B, 16-D

Tombstone Oddities



In 1703 barmaid Hannah Twynnoy, buried at Malmesbury Abbey, Wiltshire, became the first known person to be killed by a tiger in Britain (though not the last- there have been at least two others since.) A plaque in a nearby church recorded her story:

To the memory of Hannah Twynnoy. She was a servant of the White Lion Inn where there was an exhibition of wild beasts, and amongst the rest a very fierce tiger which she imprudently took pleasure in teasing, notwithstanding the repeated remonstrance of its keeper. One day whilst amusing herself with this dangerous diversion the enraged animal by an extraordinary effort drew out the staple, sprang towards the unhappy girl, caught hold of her gown and tore her to pieces.

Last Words

General Sir Isaac Brock 1769-1812



Killed at the Battle of Queenston Heights, he is said to have uttered “Surgite” (Latin for “push on”) before he died, but because he was shot through the heart it’s unlikely he said anything. His uniform with the bullet hole in it is displayed in the Canadian War Museum.